

In re: Nguyen et al.  
Serial No. 09/207,945  
Filed: December 9, 1998  
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19-23, 25-32, 34-36, 38-42, 44-51, 53-55 and 57 prior to December 8, 1998. Applicants diligently proceeded with filing of the present patent application after conception prior to December 8, 1998.

Accordingly, Chan is not prior art against Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17, 19-23, 25-32, 34-36, 38-42, 44-51, 53-55 and 57, because Chan was not filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the Applicants for patent as required to qualify as prior art. Applicants, therefore, request that the rejections of Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17, 19-23, 25-32, 34-36, 38-42, 44-51, 53-55 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

It is not believed that an extension of time is required. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection herewith are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

### Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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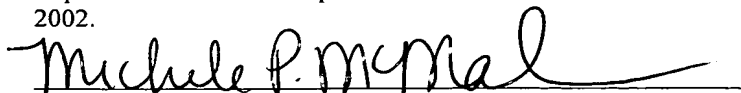
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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on October 21, 2002.



Michele P. McMahan

Date of Signature: October 21, 2002